

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREVENTION OF EXCESSIVE  
ALCOHOL USE**

**WHEREAS**, excessive alcohol use includes binge drinking (five or more drinks during a single occasion for men and four or more drinks in a single occasion for women), underage drinking, drinking while pregnant, and alcohol impaired driving<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that children who consume alcohol before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some point in their lives versus children who abstain from alcohol until they are 21<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, excessive alcohol use still continues to play an important role in unintentional injuries, homicides, and suicides which are the leading causes of death among youth<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that alcohol use is implicated in at least one-third of sexual assault and acquaintance or “date” rape cases among teen and college students<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol is more likely to be a factor in violence where the attacker and victim know each other (such as domestic violence). Two-thirds of victims who were attacked by an intimate partner (including a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend) reported that alcohol had been involved, whereas only 31% of victimizations by strangers are alcohol-related <sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, reports by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth revealed that underage youth are heavily exposed to alcohol advertising on radio, in magazines, and on the Internet<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey found that in 2015, 27% of high school students had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days prior to the survey<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that in 2015, 15.5% of Idaho high school students engaged in binge drinking (defined as having five or more drinks in a row) during the 30 days prior to completing the survey<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, excessive drinking results in 437 deaths and 12,311 years of potential life lost each year in Idaho<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the beer tax in Idaho was last changed in 1961 and is ranked 38<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states<sup>6,7</sup> and,

**WHEREAS**, the wine tax in Idaho began in 1971 and has not been changed since then and is ranked 36<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states<sup>6,7</sup>.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health support the best practice recommendations to decrease excessive alcohol use by raising state excise taxes on alcohol; restricting access to alcohol through increased compliance checks and responsible beverage service programs; and increasing community mobilization efforts to assess problems and resources needed to combat underage drinking. The proceeds collected from the tax shall be dedicated to substance abuse prevention or treatment programs.

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1 Preventing Drug Abuse and Excessive Alcohol Use. National Drug Prevention Strategy, National Drug Council, May 2014.

2 Reducing Underage Alcohol Consumption. American Public Health Association Policy Statement, November 9, 2004.

3 Alcohol and Crime Fact Sheet. National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. <https://ncadd.org/learn-about-alcohol/alcohol-and-crime>. Accessed on February 25, 2015.

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/yrbbs](http://www.cdc.gov/yrbbs). Accessed on April 7, 2017.

5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention Status Reports 2013: Excessive Alcohol Use—Idaho. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2014.

6 <https://tax.idaho.gov/i-1021.cfm>. Accessed on April 18, 2017

7 <http://www.tax-rates.org/idaho/excise-tax>. Accessed on April 18, 2017